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JAN 25 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Behan, D. & Chalmers, D.

EXAMINER: Basi, N.

SER. NO.: 09/060,188

ART UNIT: 1646

FILED: April 14, 1998

FOR: A METHOD OF IDENTIFYING MODULATORS
OF CELL SURFACE MEMBRANE RECEPTORS
USEFUL IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASE

**RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION DATED
JANUARY 20, 2000**

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated January 20, 2000 ("Action"), Applicants request review of the following and reconsideration of the issues raised by the Office in the Action in light of the points and information provided herein.

A. AMENDMENTS

I. In The Claims

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1 (Twice amended). A method for directly identifying a candidate compound as a compound having activity selected from the group consisting of inverse agonist activity, [partial agonist activity] and agonist activity[,] to [an] a constitutively activated orphan receptor, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a candidate compound with a constitutively activated orphan receptor; [and]

(b) determining, by measurement of the compound efficacy at said contacted receptor, whether said compound has inverse agonist activity[, partial agonist activity,] or agonist activity to said receptor[.]; and

(c) directly identifying a compound of step (b) having inverse agonist activity as an inverse agonist to said receptor, or having agonist activity as an agonist to said receptor.

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